an>

Title: Regarding drought situation prevailing in Telangana.

SHRI BHEEMRAO B. PATIL (ZAHEERABAD): I would like to draw kind attention of the Government regarding drought conditions prevailing in Telangana. Drought is forcing distress sale of cattle and migration. 14 major reservoirs across Krishna, Godavari are at dead storage level. Never-before seen acute drinking water shortage across the State and production of food grains and pulses has fallen drastically.

Reeling under a second successive drought, the State is facing a water crisis, with scarcity hitting not just the villages and towns but even the capital Hyderabad. Dependent mostly on rain water, the state of 35 million people is witnessing migration of small farmers and farm workers to cities in other states. And acute shortage of water and fodder is forcing people, especially the farmers, to sell their cattle at throwaway prices. Nearly 1.4 million people have migrated from the worst affected districts of Mahabubnagar, Ranga Reddy, Medak, Nizamabad and Adilabad. The migration is indicative of how terrible the situation is. People are mostly migrating to Pune, Mumbai, Bhiwandi, Ahmedabad and Surat is search of job. Out of 450 mandals or revenue units comprising varying number of villages, 231 have been drought affected. The farmers' organizations claim that 368 mandals are hit. The food grain production was 6.5 million tones in 2015-16 as against the target of 11.1 million tones. Rice production was 3.5 million tones while the state's consumption is six million tones. The production of pulses and oil seeds has also fallen drastically. The State sought Rs. 3,064 crore from the Central Government for drought relief but it has announced Rs. 791 crore. Of this, only Rs 400 crore has been released. The farmers say the disbursement of compensation for crop losses is yet to start. For drinking water supply, the Centre released Rs.72 crore against the State's request for Rs.555 crore. Every day 20-25 people are dying due to heat wave.

Hence, I request the Union Government to kindly intervene in the mater and help the State by releasing required funds.